

## REMARKS

Main claim 23 has been amended to clarify the term “regenerating the optical signal” to refer to operation in which the wavelength of the regenerated signal is *not changed*. Basis for this amendment can be found in paragraph 24 of the published U.S. specification.

Graves, as interpreted by the Examiner, discloses a wavelength converter in which the output signal is produced at a *different* wavelength. This is clearly different from what is required in the amended claim 23.

Additionally, for improved clarity, the term “wavelength converters” used in claim 23 has been clarified to refer to conversion of the optical communication signal into an electrical signal. Basis for this amendment can be found in paragraph 23 of the published U.S. specification.

Wherefore, a favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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